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whose services I have been again enabled to avail myself of during the summer months. The entries have been made on cards of the best quality manufactured for the purpose by the American Library Bureau. They are perforated near the middle of the lower margin and will be held in their places in drawers or trays by rods, thus avoiding the possibility of accidental disarrangement. The chance of such an accident has made it inadvisable to open for general use the present catalogue, which is complete to date, as the cards are arranged in drawers without guards, and any confusion of the alphabetical arrangement would make it worse than useless.

A shelf catalogue has also been commenced. This consists of the briefest author and title entries of the books as they are at present numbered and placed in the cases. This will be a necessity of library administration when the card catalogue is alone in use for reference, as without it a great expenditure of time would be necessary to determine what books may be lost or misplaced.

I regret to say that for the same reason as that noted last year—lack of means—no books have been bound since my last report. The necessity for binding some of our accumulations has, however, become so great that during the coming year a portion of the income of the I. V. Williamson Fund will be appropriated for the binding of books credited to said fund.

A detailed list of accessions is herewith submitted.

EDW. J. NOLAN,
Librarian.

REPORT OF THE CURATORS.

The Curators present the following statement from the Curator-in-charge, Prof. Angelo Heilprin, as their report for the year ending November 30 :

During the past year, as in preceding years, much of the work accomplished in the Museum has been voluntary—this more especially in the departments of Conchology and Botany, to the special conservators of which the Academy feels itself under lasting obligation. A similar obligation attaches to the labors of the conservator of the Mineralogical department covered by the Wm. S. Vaux trust, a special report pertaining to which has

been submitted to the Council. In the department of Entomology the partial services of a paid assistant, employed in joint association with the American Entomological Society, have been secured.

In departments other than those here specified the work accomplished has been under the immediate direction of the Curator-in-charge and his assistants who have received material aid in various ways from the several Jessup Fund beneficiaries. While it is believed much has been done toward bringing the collections into a relational sequence, and in the identification and labeling of specimens, years of labor still remain before, at the present rate of progress, the entire Museum can be brought into systematic order. Nor, it appears, will the attainment of this much-desired object be practicable until further and greatly-increased accommodation for the proper exposition of the steadily increasing collections be furnished. Reflectively, again, the want of space acts as a material check to the proper development of the collections, which, in the estimation of donors, can now no longer be exhibited to advantage. The following extract from the Report of the Professor of Ethnology and Archæology illustrates this condition: "The collections of the Academy in this department are substantially the same as noted in the last report. It would be easy to increase them were there ample accommodations for their favorable display as objects." The extensive series of rocks and fossils collected by the Second Geological Survey of the State of Pennsylvania, and contained in upwards of 200 cases, still remain boxed, awaiting the opportunity when an increase of space will permit of their classification and display.

It is earnestly hoped that the contemplated extension, either in part or in whole, of the present building, which is imperatively demanded by the needs of the institution, may be shortly realized, but toward the attainment of this end assistance, other than that which can be furnished by the Academy alone, is necessary. The present resources of the Academy are in themselves scarcely sufficient to maintain the institution as it is now situated, and much too limited to enable it to fully meet the requirements of scientific investigators and investigation. A Curator's fund for the liberal purchase of specimens may be indicated as a growing absolute necessity, and scarcely less so a

fund to be used for the prosecution of zoo-geographical explorations. The interest derived from a principal fund of some \$50,000 to \$60,000 would fairly equip annual expeditions to regions that have been thus far little, or not at all, investigated—Florida, the West Indies, Mexico, Central America, or Labrador, for example—and permit of a large amount of material to be collected for the use of naturalists generally.

The special curatorial work during the past year has been mainly in connection with the departments of Vertebrate and Invertebrate Palæontology and Osteology. The entire collections of fossil fishes, reptiles and mammals have been brought together, properly arranged and classified, and constituted into distinct sections or departments. The specimens of osteology have been largely identified and classified, and are now in a condition to be advantageously used by the student and specialist. A special collection, intended to illustrate the type forms of animal life, from the highest to very nearly the lowest, designed to facilitate the work of the zoological student, is rapidly approaching completion, although still requiring a system of improved explanatory labeling.

The routine work connected with the curatorial office has been accomplished as heretofore, and requires no special enumeration of details. The institution has benefitted during the year through the services of five Jessup Fund beneficiaries, covering as many distinct departments.

Very respectfully,

ANGELO HEILPRIN,

Curator-in-charge.

JOS. LEIDY,

Chairman Curators.

REPORT OF THE CURATOR OF THE WILLIAM S. VAUX COLLECTIONS.

The Curator of the William S. Vaux collections respectfully reports:—

The collections are in good condition, no change having been made in the arrangement except that which was rendered necessary by the addition of one hundred and four mineral specimens,